

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME 5 - NUMBER 7

MAY, 1957



OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

On March 30, the Southeast Convention in annual session at LaGrange United Church, unanimously elected the Rev. James H. Lightbourne Jr., as Superintendent of the Southeast Convention.

Mr. Lightbourne is presently serving the Congregational Christian Church in Holland, Va. He will take over the responsibilities of Superintendent on June 1, 1957.

He was born in Holland when his

father was minister there, and is a Southerner. His education was obtained at Elon, Brown, and Hartford Seminary.

Mr. Lightbourne is currently vice-president of the Southern Convention, president of the Board of Trustees of Franklinton at Bricks, has served on the Board of Publications of the Southern Convention, and is a director of the Missions Board and former chairman of the Finance Committee of the Southern Convention.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN TRILOGY

Faith Freedom Fellowship

by STANLEY U. NORTH

We Congregational Christians have no creed but we do have a faith that is compelling and unifying. We hold that God has revealed Himself through spiritually sensitive men down through the centuries. The most significant record of that revelation is to be found in the Holy Bible; the most meaningful expression of that revelation is to be found in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament has it, that one should love his neighbor and hate his enemy. Jesus denies any such doctrine, affirming that one should love his enemies and pray for those who persecute one. The Old Testament teaches: "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." Jesus repudiates this law of revenge, affirming, "Do not resist one that is evil, but if any one strike you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also . . . if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two."

Biblical revelation is conditioned by the level of education and culture of the age in which it occurred. The early Biblical records assume that the earth is flat, and take for granted that the sun moves from east to west across the heavens. That the Bible is wrong in these particulars does not invalidate the Bible, for the Bible is a record of man's insights age after age. If one looks through a stained glass window he beholds something totally different. God's revelation is limited by the medium through which it was and is made.

It is foolish to expect the race, in its infancy, to have a mature conception of God. The Bible quite naturally, therefore, describes God in terms of early man's limitations — his fears and superstitions. "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" is not a revelation of God's will but a reflection of man's immaturity. The Bible always pictures God in terms of man's ability to comprehend spiritual truth. Or, to put it another way, the Bible is a progressive revelation of God's character and will. Hosea reveals God as loving; Amos, as righteous; Isaiah, as holy; Micah, as just and merciful yet humble; Jonah, as universal; Jesus, as Father. In the caldron of experience, the race at long last achieves in Jesus, a God who is at once loving and just, righteous and merciful, sacrificial and redemptive.

We Congregational Christians will

vary in detail in our understanding of the scriptures, but we will be quite one in our emphasis upon the supremacy of Jesus. He was a child but withal the incarnation of God's love. He was a Teacher whose spiritual insights continue to challenge mankind, as is true of no other teacher in all history. He was an unsurpassed Prophet of righteousness; He was a Preacher of fearless courage and commanding power. He was hated by the selfish and bigoted; He was feared by the privileged and the exploiter; and, it must be confessed, He was betrayed by a disciple, and deserted by His friends. His Calvary is our shame for we continue to crucify Him. His resurrection is our hope that, in spite of all of our meanness and sins, our callowness and apathy, our professions of faith and broken promises, truth will prevail; righteousness will reign; justice will triumph; love will be victorious.

This is God's world, not ours. It is a world of law, spiritual not less than physical. We can not defy the law of the Spirit and be saved. "Woe unto you, scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites," warns Jesus, "for ye tithe mint and anise and cummin and neglect the weightier matters of the law, justice, mercy and humility, but these ye ought to have done and not to have left the other undone."

And because we Congregational Christians place our major emphasis upon Jesus as the supreme revelation of God to man, I would hope we are not sectarian. It is the gospel that is important; it is God's kingdom that needs to be proclaimed. All else are means to these ends. Denominations will live and die but the kingdom is eternal. And of this we may be sure, — we will either serve God's purpose for His kingdom of righteousness or He will raise up others who will be obedient to His divine commands.

Freedom

The second element in the Congregational Christian Trilogy, about which I want to speak, is freedom. There is no ecclesiastical authority that can impose its will upon us without our consent. Our fathers gave birth to our church by their non-conformity, and some of them gave up their lives rather than obey the established church. Such

is our heritage! And such is our prized possession.

Now let me speak plainly. The Boards of the Congregational Christian churches are creatures and agents of the churches. They came into being at the instigation of the churches to provide the churches with channels through which they might fulfill the command of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." The Boards operate under powers granted by state charters. Only the legislatures of the states in question can alter those charters; neither the General Council nor any other body can compel the Boards to act contrary to the powers defined in their charters.

The General Council is the ecclesiastical agency of the Congregational Christian churches. It represents the denomination in ecumenical councils. It is a planning and coordinating instrument. It does not legislate—it suggests and recommends.

The action of the General Council, approving The Church Building Loan Fund, was not a mandate to the churches but a call to significant service. A number of churches in this convention did not respond to that call, exercising their freedom; others are considerably in arrears in their payments or pledges. One is bound to say that freedom of itself is no virtue unless it be exercised responsibly. No missionary enterprise among us is so far-reaching in its effect upon the spiritual health of the nation as the Church Building Loan Fund. The churches that have responded to the Church Building Loan Fund appeal have honored themselves in so doing. The pledge is not a legal obligation. Its payment represents a moral obligation freely accepted and freely met. The churches of this convention, over the years, have received building aid from the Church Building Department in excess of \$472,000. The Convention office, along with the District that preceded it, plus the salary aid given to the churches, have been the recipients of aid in excess of \$600,000. A fellowship investment of over a million dollars surely warrants the comment that cooperation is a two-way

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CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB

To clarify any misunderstandings or misconceptions regarding the purposes, the policies, the plans or the operation of The Church Builders Club, the Board of Trustees makes this statement:

The idea for forming The Church Builders Club was originated by Mr. W. C. Carpenter to supplement the Church Extension Program of the entire Southeast Convention. Its members are people who believe the expanding Southland needs more churches of Congregational freedom and Christian faith. These members are pledged to contribute \$5.00 to assist each new church, helping it to erect a worthy edifice for worship services. Realizing the limitations and demands made on the finances of its members, it has been voted that no more than two calls per year will be made.

Some confusion has risen regarding memberships. There are several reasons for this: 1) In the beginning, people were counted as members who pledged to pay upon call, then so much time elapsed between their pledging and the first call that they completely forgot the entire matter; 2) In some instances over-zealous representatives listed people as members who promised to join at a later date, then never did.

To eliminate any confusion regarding who is a member and who is not, it was decided that only members who have actually paid the current pledge will be considered as members and those who have not will be dropped from the rolls. They may rejoin at any time by paying the current pledge, without paying back pledges.

The purpose of the Church Builders Club being to supplement the building program of the Southeast Convention, the Church Builders Club must cooperate fully with the Survey and Church Aid Committee of the Southeast Convention. It would be poor stewardship for the Church Builders Club to make grants where the Survey and Church Aid Committee has not, or will not, approve the project; therefore the policy for making grants to new churches is: after the Survey and Church Aid Committee has made the proper studies and approved the project and recommended it to the Board of Trustees of the Church Builders Club, it then decides if it

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"Tomorrow Together"

An historic gathering of the men of the Laymen's Fellowship (C. C. Churches) and the Churchmen's Brotherhood (E. & R. Church) will be held Aug. 23-25 in Oberlin, Ohio. Every Congregational Christian and every Evangelical and Reformed man is an official voting delegate.

Many outstanding speakers and leaders will be present, among them Dr. James E. Wagner, Miss Elsie Farris, Charles P. Taft, William Wegner, Dr. Fred Hoskins, Reginald Helfferich, Robert Moss, and Larry Durgin.

Registration, lodging and seven meals will cost only \$20. For further information write to A. B. Snell, SEC president; or Walter A. Graham, executive secretary, Pembroke, Ky.

United Student Fellowship

At the Pilgrim Fellowship Convention held March 16-17 in Atlanta, Ga., a group of college young people met to discuss the United Student Fellowship. This group of 15, representing six colleges of our area, began making plans for the development of the USF in this area.

It was decided the USF would meet with the next annual Pilgrim Fellowship Convention, but that separate business sessions would be held.

Albert Van Cleave Jr., of Southern Union College, was elected acting chairman of the group and Tom Odom, University of Tennessee, was elected acting secretary.

The national Conference and Assembly of USF will be held Aug. 27-Sept. 3 at Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio. Information may be obtained from Dr. Bryant Drake, 19 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

—Albert Van Cleave Jr.

Article Of Interest

The April 22 issue of Newsweek, in an article on Dr. Nathan M. Pusey, new president of Harvard University, tells of the re-birth of the Divinity School under the leadership of Dr. Douglas Horton, Congregational Christian minister who became its dean in 1955. Dr. Horton was formerly Minister and Executive Secretary of the General Council, the position now held by Dr. Fred Hoskins.

OFF TO A NEW START

Although the Southeast Convention's "Program of Progress" has slowed down somewhat during the period when we were without a superintendent (and a little grinding-of-the-gears has been evidenced) every indication points to renewed hope and enthusiasm with the election of the Rev. James H. Lightbourne as Superintendent and plans for future progress are already being made.

Officers elected during the annual meeting in LaGrange, March 30-31, who will be guiding the Convention during the coming year were: the Rev. Collie Seymour, Moderator; Mrs. Arnold Slater, Moderator-elect; W. J. Strickland, Treasurer; Mrs. E. A. Albright, Registrar; and member-at-large to the Board of Directors, Rev. Arnold Slater.

Chairmen and members of the five standing committees of the SEC are:

Ministry and Churches — Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, chairman, with Dr. Kendrick Grovel, Dr. Thomas Anderson, Rev. Carl Landes and Rev. Guy L. Colbert;

Survey and Church Aid — Rev. Hugh Lasseter, chairman, with Pressley Ingram, Rev. Charles Bell, Rev. Arnold Slater and Rev. Thomas F. Shreve;

Evangelism — Rev. John B. Crutcher, chairman, with W. A. Buckner, Rev. Carroll Lewis, Rev. Herbert Long and Rev. John W. Roberts;

Stewardship and Missionary Education — Rev. Henry Weaver, chairman, with Rev. W. A. Blankenhorn, Ralph Ferren, Mrs. Richard Churchill, and Odell Yancey;

Christian Education and Youth Work — Mrs. Raymond W. Berry, chairman, with Mrs. J. M. Gager, Mrs. E. L. Askren, W. R. Green Jr., and Rev. Clyde C. Flannery.

Elected to serve on the board of Trustees of Southern Union College for three-year terms were H. Y. Sears, Mrs. A. D. Harry, and Dr. Paul R. Reynolds.

The Southeast Convention was most fortunate in having two national denominational leaders present for this annual meeting. Dr. Fred Hoskins, Minister of the General Council, and Dr. Stanley U. North, General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions.

Dr. Hoskins served as the Chaplain

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THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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PROJECT OF THE MONTH

This is the year that many of the Protestant denominations are thinking about the theme "Mission Field: U. S. A." One of the unique ministries of the Congregational Christian home mission program is the Delmo Community Development Program in Missouri. Like so many of the activities of the Board of Home Missions, it is a cooperative effort—cooperating not only with the people whom it strives to serve but also with several other denominations who have made this their special concern.

Delmo (the name is coined from Delta and Missouri) was started in 1945 when 2500 sharecroppers were threatened with eviction from their government housing project. Only a few years before, this project had rescued them from eviction by the plantation owners. A corporation, formed by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Congregational Christian Churches, bought the houses from the government and set up arrangements whereby the people could purchase them on small monthly payments over an eight-year period. However, the churches saw the need for more than the financial assistance to home-ownership. The share-croppers in the 10 little towns of "Swampeast Missouri" had lived too long in a dependent economically depressed state. Many

Greetings From The Lightbournes

I am grateful that you have seen fit to elect me Superintendent of the Southeast Convention. To serve you in this capacity offers a real opportunity and challenge. The progress made in past years will serve well as the foundation for progress in the future. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and to come to know you better. I hope that you will call upon me whenever I can be of assistance.

We, Mrs. (Carolyn) Lightbourne, James H. III (Jimmy J), Ernest Anderson (Andy), and Leslie Hope and myself, look forward to being in our new home by June 1st.

James H. Lightbourne Jr.

were illiterate, lacking in skills other than farming on the most simple basis, suspicious of their neighbors, and completely without religious faith. Through the Board of Home Missions, skilled workers were sent to teach these people to enjoy the advantages and joys of community life, to take responsibility and to help themselves to a higher standard of living. Much has been accomplished in ten years. Families have been taught the essentials of nutrition and home-making skills.

One of the ways in which you may be a part of the cooperative effort to help the people of this area is through a Friendly Service Project. Recently word has come from Delmo that there is a need for good used clothing in the thrift shops.

The income from the sale of the used clothing supplied by churches of many denominations goes to community projects, such as church schools and emergency aid for the sick. (The fact that the people are enabled to buy good serviceable clothes at a fraction of their original price is also of tremendous benefit). Other needs are balls and belts for boys and girls; books for all ages; and mounted pictures for community centers. Send your gifts to Mrs. J. R. Hansen, Box 218, Lilbourn, Mo.

(Project of the Month is suggested by the Missionary Education Committee of the Division of Christian Education.)

Student Summer Service

The students call it "S. S. S.", but these letters are symbols for a magic formula which has opened doors to a busy, useful summer for hundreds of college and seminary students during the past 42 years. Student Summer Service is a program of the Town and Country Department of the Board of Home Missions for sending college and seminary students into church work for their summer term. The usual period of service is twelve weeks, for which the students receive (in the Southeast Convention) from \$50 to \$100 per month, depending on their training and experience, and their traveling expenses. Local churches furnish room and board.

College students are introduced to church vocations as a possibility for their life's work. They are used in youth camps, vacation Bible schools, and occasionally as assistants to ministers.

From the standpoint of the churches, S. S. S. is an opportunity to have a good vacation Bible school with trained leadership in the smaller, more remote churches where such leadership is not available.

Because the Student Summer Service workers through their type of work are helping boys and girls, it has become a custom of our churches to have the Children's Day offering go to Student Summer Service work. From this fund, received from all the Congregational Christian churches of the nation, the Board of Home Missions through the Town and Country Department allocates \$800 each year to the Southeast Convention for this program. The Convention depends on the local churches within the SEC to add to this amount to underwrite the total program.

From requests received for workers this year, we estimate it will cost about \$1200 for the total program this summer. Some churches have already sent in a check for the S. S. S. program, even those which are having their own Bible Schools and not planning to use workers this year!

If your church wants an S. S. S. worker this summer and has not sent in a request, please do so at once. The schedule is filling rapidly. Give several dates when the school could be held.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship of the Southeast Convention met March 30 during the annual meeting for a luncheon and business meeting, with more than 90 present.

A new constitution was presented and adopted, and officers elected were Mrs. Arnold Slater, president; Miss Dora Brackin, secretary-treasurer; and the three state presidents were named as vice-presidents: Miss Miriam Heermans, Mrs. H. Y. Sears and Mrs. A. D. Harry.

The chairmen of the six areas of work will complete the Executive Board.

Reports were given on the progress of the six areas of work chairmen in preparing materials for the Women's Packet, to be presented during the summer Retreats. Emphasis during the retreats will be workshops on these areas.

Mrs. F. P. Thomas, president of the Ohio Women's Fellowship, told of her travels with the European Tour last summer, emphasizing the ways in which the women of other countries share our own concerns and problems.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT WOMEN'S RALLIES

South Ala.-N. W. Florida: Mrs. Judson Jones, president; Mrs. Pera Kennedy, vice-president; Miss Lula Trawick, secretary-treasurer.

Kentucky-Tennessee: Miss Miriam Heermans, president; Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, vice-president; Mrs. C. L. Klein, secretary; Mrs. Rufus Obrecht, treasurer.

Central Alabama: Mrs. Floyd Carmack, president; Mrs. Henry Abbott, vice-president; Mrs. Nan Heidi, secretary-treasurer.

North Georgia: Mrs. Royce Braselton, president; Mrs. Jack Hinton, vice-president; Mrs. C. L. Percy, secretary; Mrs. B. G. Dinsmore, treasurer; and Mrs. Herman Gower, Friendly Service chairman.

Central Georgia: Miss Bernice Peace, president; Mrs. Elizabeth Bush, vice-president; Mrs. J. K. Murphy, secretary-treasurer.

South Georgia and North Alabama officers will serve another year.

CHURCHMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

At the annual meeting of The Churchmen's Fellowship, held at LaGrange, Ga., March 30, an amended constitution was adopted changing the name from The Laymen's Fellowship to The Churchmen's Fellowship. The feeling was that Churchmen's Fellowship was more inclusive of all men.

Officers elected were A. B. Snell, president; James Dollar, vice-president; John Hellams, secretary-treasurer. Five standing committee chairmen were also elected: Devotional Life and Evangelism, Stanley Riley; Christian Stewardship, Tom Crenshaw; Missionary Education, R. L. Farrar; Christian Social Action, Allen Saunders; Denominational Loyalty, Odell Yancey.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held Saturday, April 13th in Atlanta. Plans were begun to obtain

materials to plan programs that will assist the local fellowships. Complete details and future plans resulting from this meeting will be mailed to your church within the next two weeks. **Watch for it!**

Tomorrow Together

The first joint nation-wide Convention of the Churchmen's Brotherhood of E and R and C. C. Churches will be at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, on August 23-25, 1957. A carload from your church, all sharing the car expenses, will make this an inexpensive weekend of fellowship, inspiration and education. **Make your plans now.** Many registrations are already in, assuring good attendance.

A. B. Snell, President



Churchmen's Fellowship officers present at the luncheon meeting in LaGrange, left to right: Stanley Riley, Tom Crenshaw, James Dollar, A. B. Snell and Rufus Farrar.

PEOPLE AND PLACES . . .

The Rev. Paul Pike is now serving the Shawmut Todd Church.

The Rev. Earl Hand and his family moved to Lanett in April and Mr. Hand is serving the Lanett Huguley Church.

The Rev. Raymond W. Berry has resigned as pastor of Andalusia Antioch Church and accepted a call to serve LaGrange United Church. Mr. and Mrs. Berry will move to LaGrange about June 1st.

Mr. James Dollar of Langdale is now serving the Roanoke Forest Home Church.

The Rev. M. O. Worley, serving the two churches of the Brantley Parish, is also serving Andalusia Coldwater Church at an early morning service so

that this church will not be without a pastor.

Two students of Columbia Seminary, Presbyterian school in Atlanta, are serving churches in the Southeast Convention: Wm. B. Emerson is serving Crest Hebron and Wm. H. Traylor has been called to serve Oxford Sardis.

On April 7, Mrs. Marion L. Thrasher, widow of the late Rev. Thrasher, died at her home in Hanceville, Ala.

Evangelistic services were held at the Hanceville, Mt. Grove Church during Holy Week, April 14-21, with services each evening. The Rev. Hugh Lasseter of Evarts, Ky., was the guest preacher.

"Salvation is free, discipleship costs everything."

Church News....

The Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, pastor of Brookmeade Congregational Church, and Dr. William Lloyd Imes, Acting Dean of the Chapel, Fisk University, exchanged pulpits on Palm Sunday, April 14. There was an excellent attendance at both Brookmeade and Fisk. Dr. Imes preached on "The Kingship of Jesus" at Brookmeade, and Mr. Flannery's sermon was "He Set His Face." Dr. Bard Thompson, Professor of Church History at Vanderbilt Divinity School, assisted Dr. Imes in the service. Professor Oswald Scragg of the Fisk faculty assisted in the service at the chapel.

Mr. Flannery plans an exchange of pulpits with the Rev. Kenneth Wortham, minister of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church, in June.

A Family Service was held May 5 at 10:00 A. M. With the present arrangement of having both Church School and Worship Service at the 11:00 o'clock hour, there is little opportunity for children to go to church with their parents. The Family Service each quarter is planned for all the members of the family.

New officers of the Woman's Guild for next year are: Mrs. E. C. Lyman, president; Mrs. Donald DeBore, vice-president; Mrs. Bard Thompson, secretary; and Mrs. Boland Bell, treasurer. The new officers will take office in the fall.

New officers of the Men's Fellowship elected at the April meeting are: Roland Bell, president, Harold Granish, vice-president; and Donald DeBore, secretary-treasurer. The Men's Fellowship meets for dinner at 6:00 P. M. the first Friday in each month. Special guest at the last meeting, and speaker at the Lenten School of Churchmanship, was the Rev. Galen R. Weaver.

The Pilgrim Fellowship had a dinner and party for twelve P. Fers from Michigan April 7.

* * *

Mid-week Prayer Service at Vanceville Church is not as well attended since most of the congregation is so busily engaged in farmwork. However, those who do attend receive much inspiration. Two-thirds of the teen-agers present recently had a part in sentence prayer.

Mrs. Otto Culpepper, wife of the pastor, deserves much credit for her work with the choir, and constant and regular practice has meant improvement.

During January two members were added to the church roll by profession of faith: James Lawrence and Miss Sandra Carpenter. In February M. L. Matthews joined by letter. The church welcomes these fine new members.

On Feb. 1, M. L. Matthews and Mrs. Rosie Hand were united in marriage.

Those from Vanceville attending the Pilgrim Fellowship Conference at Atlanta Central Church in March were Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Cooper, Misses Wy-lene and Willene Cooper, Sandra Carpenter, Betty Ruth Cooper and Ruthie Jane Davis. All reported a good meeting.

On March 26 Mrs. Royal Wood, Mrs. Jeff Hand, Mrs. W. T. Cooper, Mrs. Albert Mixon and Mrs. Walter Hand represented Vanceville Women's Fellowship at the Spring Rally held at Douglas Church, paying the state dues and dedicating their Woman's Gift.

Jeff Hand, Robert Allen and Ray Carpenter were delegates to the Convention meeting in LaGrange March 30-31.

Our pastor, the Rev. Otto Culpepper, and his wife are untiring visitors, especially to the sick.

the love and respect of the people in the community. Mr. Culpepper is a wonderful and inspired preacher.

He is a willing worker too, as carpenter, painter, plumber of anything that needs fixing. The men of the church, with his help, have just completed restrooms for the educational building and installed a sink and wall cabinet in the dining room.

—Mrs. Rosie Matthews, reporter

* * *

On March 17 a large crowd attended the regular Sunday School and Worship Service at Haleyville Union Grove Church. Before the preaching hour the Holy Sacrament was offered to those present. A dinner was served at the noon hour and the regular Third Sunday afternoon sing followed. It was an enjoyable day for all.

Everyone was happy to have Dr. Guy Colbert present to deliver the message for both the morning and evening services.

The Women's Fellowship met at the church for its regular monthly meeting on the night of the 18th. Mrs. Bessie Dickinson was in charge of the program. A number of visitations were reported during the preceding month by various members.

On the night of the 19th a covered dish supper was held, with the proceeds going to help finish remodeling the building. It was so successful and enjoyable that we plan a similar dinner soon.

The young people met recently and set out shrubbery and bulbs to help beautify the church grounds. Everyone is to meet soon to finish cleaning and clearing the surrounding church grounds.

—Mrs. Dell Hill, reporter

* * *

The Women's Fellowship of Columbus United Church has adopted a project of beautifying the church. New rubber runners have been put in the aisles, and the pulpit area has been carpeted and velvet draperies added to the altar rail. They have purchased a new sofa and chair for the pastor's study. Paint has been bought to redecorate the interior of the church.

A Sunrise Easter Service was sponsored by the Men's Club, with donuts and coffee served after the service.

The Stuart Bible Class sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt at Flat Rock Park for the entire Sunday School.

—Ruth Ward, reporter

* * *

The Pilgrim Fellowship of Atlanta Central Church presented for the 10th year their annual Easter morning worship service for their own members and those church members interested in sharing this experience. The service began at 7:30 A. M. and was followed by a breakfast served by the P. Fers.

The Executive Council of the Senior P. F. met on April 7 to make general plans for the coming months. Those officers attending were Pam Rapp, president; Sue King, vice-president and secretary; Wilfred Holton, treasurer; David Starrett, Don and Pete Sanford, chairmen of the Action, Fellowship and Faith Commissions; and Harry Long, advisor.

The P. F. has begun publication of a weekly P. F. News, the first issue being two pages, which gives information about meetings, activities and programs.

Another new idea is the chain-tele-

phone-system set up by the Senior P. F. to stimulate attendance at meetings.

* * *

The Pilgrim Fellowship of Chipley Oak Grove Church has been doing some interesting things lately — they have completed several money-raising projects, held a program on Bible Study, and were in charge of the Easter Sunrise Service for the church. For recreation, an ice-cream social was enjoyed recently.

Four delegates and one adult represented the P. F. March 16-17 at the annual meeting in Atlanta. We feel that the P. F. in our community is an inspiration to the adults, as well as to the teenagers. Visitors and new members are cordially invited at all times.

Maris Livingston, P. F. reporter

* * *

The Soddy and Daisy Churches were represented at the SEC annual meeting by the following delegates: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith, Miss Linda Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lewis, Mr. Ronnie Sanders, the Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport and the Rev. and Mrs. Walter F. Crosby.

Miss Lois James and Miss Doris Rogers took care of the "parsonage family" over the weekend while Mr. and Mrs. Crosby were away. Mr. Lee Jensen, a Gideon representative from the Chattanooga Camp, conducted the morning service.

On April 10 the P. F. delegates who attended the P. F. annual meeting gave reports during the morning worship service.

An amusing "April Fool" note in the church bulletin is as follows: "A larger parking space is now in use at Daisy with the jump in church attendance at 5,000. Soddy has a new balcony which would not hold the over-flow crowd at either morning or evening service. Tickets for next Sunday, \$10 each."

We are delighted to report that during March and April 63 subscribers renewed subscriptions to *Southeast News* and 25 new subscribers were obtained. The Budget Committee of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention, at a meeting held in LaGrange March 31, voted to cut the magazine to eight pages for the time being. We did not have room for pictures this issue. Sorry.

Dixon Stimpson Ordained

On March 22 the Rev. Dixon Stimpson, at that time pastor of the Pearson Union Hill Church, was ordained in the church by Ecclesiastical Council of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference.

Dr. Thomas Anderson, minister of Atlanta Central Church and chairman of the Georgia-South Carolina Conference Committee on Ministry and Churches, was elected to serve as Moderator for the Council, and H. Y. Sears was elected to serve as Scribe.

The following churches were represented by pastor and/or delegates: Ambrose Christian, Atlanta Center, Atlanta Central, Enigma Christian, Tifton, Vanceville, Woodbury Jones Chapel, and Pearson Union Hill.

Taking principal parts in the Service of Ordination were Dr. Thomas Anderson, Dr. W. W. Elder and the Rev. Alan Jones, Director of Merom Institute.

On April 1, Mr. Stimpson and his family moved to Lakeview, Iowa, where Mr. Stimpson had accepted a call to serve the Lakeview Congregational Church.

Church Builders Club . . .

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can join in assisting in their building program. If the project is approved, definite opening and closing dates will be set for the project and the call for the payment of pledges sent out. Immediately after the close of this drive for the project, the grant will be made. \$5,000 is the maximum given to any project, and while this is our goal it is not mandatory we grant more than the amount raised during the drive.

One of the errors in judgment we made in the beginning was holding open the closing date on projects, hoping to reach the maximum instead of conducting the drive for a certain period, helping as much as possible, and then moving on to the next project. The worthiness of any project will be decided after the considered discussion of the entire Board of Trustees.

Imitation is the most sincere form of flattery. Proving the worthiness of the idea is the fact that several Conventions and Conferences of the Congregational Christian churches and the Methodist churches have adopted the idea

Off to a New Start . . .

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of the Convention meeting, preached the Sunday morning Convention sermon (which was broadcast over a local radio station), spoke at the Church Builders Club dinner, and he and Dr. North conducted the Service of Installation and the Communion Service held on Sunday afternoon.

Dr. North gave an informative and inspirational address on "The Congregational Christian Trilogy — Faith, Freedom, Fellowship", which is being printed in *Southeast News* by request.

There were 237 registered delegates present, with about 30 or 40 visitors who came in for part of the meeting.

This is probably one of the few times an annual meeting has been held by a Convention without a superintendent in a church without a pastor!

and formed their own Church Builders Clubs. At the last annual meeting, members felt that Mr. Carpenter was due some recognition for his far-reaching idea, his work in helping to formulate the organization and his three years as treasurer-secretary, so voted him the title of Founder and Honorary Trustee for life. This title and position were rightfully earned.

"To err is but human", said Shakespeare. Take an original idea, an original organization to set up, a new system to handle the business, and errors are bound to occur. For this reason, a system of check and double-check has been set up. For instance, we ask that you pay your pledge to the Convention office in Atlanta, where it is credited to the proper person, then sent on to the treasurer, R. L. Howell Sr. of Columbus, Ga., C. P. A., entered on his books and deposited in the bank. Should an error occur, it is an easy matter to double check and make corrections. We wish it were possible to guarantee you we would make no more errors, but the officers and the trustees are just like you — human. At the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Southeast Convention we will request that their auditor be instructed to audit our books at the same time, giving us another safeguard against errors.

The Board of Trustees of

THE CHURCH BUILDERS CLUB

Trilogy . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

street. It is spiritually atrophying to receive and not to give. The stream that ceases to flow stagnates. So does the church that serves itself.

The Southeast Convention had a quota of \$30,000 for the Church Building Loan Fund. Declarations of Purpose were made by the churches totalling \$29,958.35. Payments through December 31st amounted to \$22,668.05. No payments have been received subsequently on the past-due balance of \$7,332.00. The record is fairly good. But only as all the churches meet their pledges in full, will the Campaign be a complete success.

To those of you who have responded promptly and completely, our thanks. To those of you who have responded not at all or only partially, there may be, in some cases, extenuating circumstances, but let me remind you that freedom is one thing, apathy is quite another thing. Nor can the Omaha Resolutions on the unsegregated church in an unsegregated society be offered as reason for non-participation, for the Campaign was for the biennium 1952-53. There have been three extra years of grace preceding the Omaha Council of last summer.

Since I have mentioned the Omaha Resolutions, let me say it is the function of the General Council to proclaim, not to legislate. The resolutions are statements of ethical convictions of the majority present at the particular council.

The Building Society will continue to operate in accordance with its charter. So long as a church is in good standing in its association; so long as that association is in good standing in the convention or conference; so long as the convention is in good standing in the denomination, the Building Society will entertain requests from churches without applying criteria other than the strategic and financial soundness of the proposal. The Council met in June of 1956. The Building Department has met three times in the meantime. Its

policy remains unchanged.

Let me say, however, the Board of Home Missions believes in the unsegregated church. The American Missionary Division, in keeping with its commission, will continue to work for an unsegregated society. Be assured, nevertheless, that the Board of Home Missions will respect the integrity of the local church and will, therefore, not be guilty of using economic pressure on a church to force upon it an ethical standard it repudiates.

We are all immature Christians, and we are all sinners, north and south, east and west. We are guilty of innumerable prejudices which we seek to rationalize in one way or another, not the least of which is anti-semitism. Yet God, in His wisdom, chose Jewish parents to be the instruments of the incarnation. The important consideration is not to be Democratic or Republican, segregationist, or anti-segregationist, but to be sure one is on God's side. Life is relatively brief. Eternity is an awfully long time.

You may well ask; Granted what you say is true, will it hold for the United Church of Christ? Let me say there is a lot of irresponsible talk going on as to what will happen to the local church when the union with the E and R Church is consummated. No one is in a position to say anything until he has read the Basis of Union. This is the instrument of the Union. It affirms and reaffirms, again and again, the independence of the local church: To control its property; to manage its own finances; to call its minister; to dismiss its minister.

The General Synod takes on the character of the General Council.

The homeland work is to function under the charter of the Board of Home Missions.

The foreign work is to operate under the charter of The American Board.

(The above is a copy of the address made by Dr. Stanley U. North at the annual meeting of the Southeast Convention in LaGrange on March 30-31. The remainder, under the title of "Fellowship", will be printed in the June issue of THE SOUTHEAST NEWS.)

SUMMER CONFERENCES

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!
Now is the time to make your plans to attend one of the summer conferences or the P. F. Work Camp.

Kentucky-Tennessee Family Camp—to be held June 9-15 at Pomona, Tenn. The Rev. Harley Patterson of Oak Ridge, Tenn., is dean.

Alabama-NW Florida Summer Conference to be held at Southern Union College, Wadley, Ala., July 14-20. The Rev. Collie Seymour of Garden City, Ala., is dean.

Work Camp—sponsored by the SEC Pilgrim Fellowship and Southern Union College, to be held July 28 through Aug. 10 with the Rev. and Mrs. Raymond Berry of Andalusia, Ala., as directors. Applications have been received from New England and the Midwest, as well as from the SEC area. The limit is 25. Get your application in immediately if you wish to attend.

Georgia-South Carolina Family Camp—to be held Aug. 18-24 at Camp Juniper, Juniper, Ga. The Rev. Edw. Knight of Waycross, Ga., is dean. Our new Superintendent and his family plan to attend this camp.

Guest Leader

Dick Chamberlain of Middleboro, Mass., a junior at Springfield College, will be the guest leader at the Wadley Summer Conference. He is enrolled as a preministerial student, was a delegate at the Yale and Doane National Councils, and is presently chairman of the National Action Commission of P. F.

In the Pilgrim Fellowship he has served as local, association and state president. He was state chairman of the Faith Commission as well as co-dean of the Deering Officers Training Conference. He has helped to shape and direct a very significant local officers training program on behalf of the Massachusetts P. F.

He is an Eagle Scout, a graduate of the national aquatic school and an officer of the Order of the Arrow. For two years he has been assistant camp director in a Boy Scout Camp in Plymouth, Mass. He is publicity director of the school radio station. His hobbies are swimming, canoeing, reading, P. F.